

GARDNER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting – November 14, 2016
City Council Chambers
95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Members present: Mayor Mark Hawke, Chairman; Robert Swartz, Vice Chairman; Anne Hurst, Secretary; James Abare, John LaFreniere, Jennifer Pelavin, and Melody Phelps

Student Representative present: Camden Kulczyk

School Personnel present: Superintendent Denise Clemons; Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary; Mr. Robert Detweiler, Business Administrator; Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mark J. Pellegrino, Principal, Gardner High School; Ms. Laura Olsen, Principal, Gardner Middle School; Mr. David Fredette, Principal, Elm Street School; Mr. Timothy J. McCormick, Principal, Gardner Academy for Learning; Robert O'Keefe, Technical Director

Others present: E. Vicente Sanabria, Director of Community Engagement and Support, LUK, Inc.; Veronica Patty, GCAT; Libby Baker Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative Coordinator, many students and parents/custodians

Call to Order

Mayor Hawke, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting opened with a roll call and the pledge of allegiance. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 8 television.

Open Time for the General Public

No one wished to speak this evening.

Recognition by the Superintendent

Superintendent Clemons recognized the following persons for their contributions to the Gardner schools:

- Robert O'Keefe, Technical Director, for his work on the website regarding cyberbullying and resources for parents.
- Elm Street School – Corey Tawezynski and Katie Gullatt for their hard work in leading the school's PBIS program. Their positive presence and leadership was instrumental in the success of the program so far.
- Thirty-four GHS students and two GALT students were recognized for receiving the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Awards. Many of the students and their parents/custodians were in attendance to receive their award letters.

Item #2790 – GCAT & LUK, Inc. Presentations

Mayor Hawke asked if there were any objections to taking Item #2790 – GCAT & LUK, Inc. Presentations out of order. There were no objections.

E. Vicente Sanabria, Director of Community Engagement and Support of LUK, Inc., and Ms. Veronica Patty, GCAT (Gardner Community Action Team), presented a PowerPoint on the information from the survey conducted in 2015 at GHS and GALT. Their mission is to increase the health and wellness of the Gardner community by reducing youth substance use, with a focus on the prevention of alcohol, the misuse of prescription medication and tobacco. They distributed Supplemental Information for the YCS Reports.

Ms. Libby Baker, Substance Prevention Collaborative Coordinator for GCAT, presented information on marijuana use.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Swartz moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- **Minutes of regular meeting of October 11, 2016**
- **Approval of following Warrants:**
 - **#17-14 – dated 10/06/16, in the of amount of \$161,423.03**
 - **#17-15 – dated 10/13/16, in the amount of \$60,004.15**
 - **#17-16 – dated 10/20/16, in the amount of \$94,551.52**
 - **#17-17 – dated 10/27/16, in the amount of \$150,537.47**
 - **#17-18 – dated 11/03/16, in the amount of \$191,008.45**
- **Approval of Gardner High School trip to New England Institute of Technology, East Greenwich, RI, on November 29, 2016. Recommended by the Superintendent.**

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz, Chairperson, said that the Finance Subcommittee met on October 5, 2016 and November 7, 2016, and minutes of the meetings were presented.

Mr. Detweiler reviewed some of the accounting and budgeting issues that emerged in the past month and presented a revamped report on Special Education out-of-district tuition expenses. The September Expense Report was reviewed.

Mr. Detweiler introduced an Indirect Cost Agreement between the City of Gardner and the School Committee. The agreement has existed for some time but was never officially adopted. The Subcommittee voted to adopt the agreement and to recommend that the full School Committee also adopt the agreement. See Item #2789.

Mr. Swartz said a special meeting will be set up later this month relative to beginning the search for a new Superintendent. He requested members to email him if they are willing to serve on the Search Committee.

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Abare, Chairperson, said that the Facilities Subcommittee met on October 24, 2016. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

- Mr. O'Brien, Facilities Director, reviewed the water testing process, the results and the plan to address the deficiencies were noted.
- Mr. O'Brien reviewed the progress of the Elm Street School windows and doors.
- The Honeywell project is picking up steam and lighting materials are being stored in a trailer located behind GHS.
- Mr. O'Brien gave an update on actions taken to address the fire inspection reports for each building.
- Mr. Pellegrino spoke about the condition of the grandstands at Watkins Field. After discussion, the Subcommittee decided to assemble and review the documents and plans generated several years ago to address the situation. A complete renovation of Watkins Field is needed.

Student Advisory Board

Camden Kulczyk, Student Representative, presented his report of activities at GHS.

- Fall sports are coming to an end and many teams fielded All-Stars.
- All Seniors took the SAT's free of charge and the Sophomores and Juniors took the PSAT's also free of charge.
- The Junior Class had a very successful Pumpkin Palooza and the Senior Class raised more than \$3,000 with their successful Haunted House.
- The Annual Athletics Association Ball will be held on November 18 at the Polish American Citizens Club.
- On Thanksgiving Day, the GHS Football team will host Oakmount Regional High School at Watkins Field.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item #2786 – Policies for Second Reading

Mrs. Phelps moved that the following policies be approved for a second reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- **IJNDB** - **Acceptable Use of Technology**
- **IJOA** - **Field Trips**
- **LBC-E** - **Notice of Intent to Pursue a Program of Home Education**

Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2787 – Amended Budget

Mr. Swartz moved that the School Committee vote a FY17 Amended Budget in the amount of \$22,112,952 as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2788 – New Food Service Pricing

Mr. Swartz moved that the School Committee implement a \$0.25 increase in food prices for students beginning in September 2017 and to increase the price for adult lunches to \$3.50 beginning January 2017 and to \$3.75 in September 2017 as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2789 – Indirect Service Agreement

Mr. Swartz moved that the School Committee adopt the City of Gardner Indirect Service Agreement as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee. The agreement is intended to identify services and expenses that are provided to the School Department by the City and to explain how such costs shall be allocated between the City and School Department for reporting purposes.

Seconded by Mr. LaFreniere.

Vote – so voted.

Item #2791 - Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Clemons announced that she is leaving in January to take a position in Connecticut. She thanked the citizens of Gardner for embracing the changes that have taken place in the schools under her direction. She highlighted many of the changes. She thanked her staff especially the administrators, the Central office personnel, and all the school principals. She also thanked parents and students for their support in helping to carry out the vision for the Gardner schools.

Item #2792 – Gardner High School Presentation – Mark Pellegrino, Principal

Mr. Pellegrino, GHS Principal, gave a PowerPoint presentation on presenting data on student progress at GHS. He spoke about the objectives which are to understand the challenges of the students and how the school is adapting to help them succeed. The percentage of students from low-income families has risen but the school has been able to improve MCAS scores for all students.

Mr. Pellegrino presented information on scoring trends for students taking the MCAS . He also presented information on the drop-out rate which has improved considerably. The drop-out rate for 2015 was 3.1% which includes GALT.

Item #2793 – Curriculum Coordinator's Update

The Curriculum Coordinator's Update was included in the packets. Dr. Goguen was present to answer questions.

Item #2794– Special Education Update

The Special Education Update was included in the packets. Ms. West was present to answer questions.

Item #2795- Business Administrator's Update

The Business Administrator's Update was included in the packets. Mr. Detweiler was present to answer questions.

Item #2796 - Grants Administrator's Update

The Grants Administrator's Update was included in the packet.

FINAL COMMENTS of SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Abare encouraged people to attend the Thanksgiving Football Game. It would be nice for the athletes to have a large crowd in attendance but it will also generate revenue for the Spring sports. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Hurst thanked Mr. Pellegrino for his presentation. She attended the Waterford Street School first graders Veterans' Day Concert. The children did a great job.

Mrs. Pelavin wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She attended the parents' conferences and the book sales.

Camden Kulczyk said it would be great to have a big crowd at the Thanksgiving Day Football Game.

Mrs. Phelps commented on items in the monthly Principals' reports. She thanked the PTO at Elm Street School for purchasing books. She encouraged people to visit the "Shop 'Til You Drop" PTO Fundraiser on December 2 at Waterford Street school. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. LaFreniere thanked Mr. Pellegrino for a great presentation and the good work being done at GHS for the students. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Mr. Swartz attended the MASS/MASC Conference in Hyannis. It was very informative and he attended as many sessions as possible. He appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Hawke commented on the many facility improvements that have been made in the schools in recent years. He agreed that Watkins Field does need many repairs.

ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. LaFreniere moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Mrs. Hurst.**

Vote – so voted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Anne Hurst, Secretary

Terri Hillman
Recording Secretary